

App. Serial No. 10/801,523
Atty. Docket No. R029 1500

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wrap-around article carrier for carrying a plurality of articles comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge, with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least one primary lock ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least one secondary male lock with two shoulders attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said the~~ cut line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

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2. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

3. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein each secondary female opening has a slit that extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

4. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 3, ~~in which~~ wherein the neck of each secondary male lock has two edges, with the distance between the edges of the neck being less than the distance between the slits, with the neck of the secondary male lock being designed to be located in the secondary female opening between the slits.

5. (original) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1, which has been loaded with articles and each primary male lock is engaged with a lock ledge formed by a primary female opening, and the shoulder of each secondary male lock is engaged with a secondary locking ledge, thereby securing the articles in the carrier.

6. (currently amended) A wrap-around article carrier for carrying a plurality of articles comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least one primary lock ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least one secondary male lock with two shoulders attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each

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secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said-the~~ fold line being arcuate shaped and having a center and two ends with the center being closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the ends of the fold line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line being V shaped with the apex of the V being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of the cut line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said-the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

7. (original) The wrap-around carrier of claim 6, which has been loaded with articles and each primary male lock is engaged with a lock ledge formed by a primary female opening, and the shoulder of each secondary male lock is engaged with a secondary locking ledge, thereby securing the articles in the carrier.

8. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 6, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

9. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of articles of claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein each secondary female opening has a slit that extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

10. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of articles of claim 9, ~~in which~~ wherein the neck of each secondary male lock has two edges, with the distance between the edges of the neck being less than the distance between the slits, with the neck of the secondary male lock being designed to be located in the secondary female opening between the slits.

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11. (currently amended) A blank for forming a wrap-around carrier for carrying a plurality of containers comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least one primary lock ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least one secondary male lock with two shoulders attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said the~~ cut line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

12. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1, for carrying a plurality of containers in two rows, ~~said the~~ carrier having at least two sets of:

- (a) a primary male lock and corresponding primary lock ledge; and
- (b) a secondary male lock and two secondary locking ledges.

13. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 6, for carrying a plurality of containers in two rows, ~~said the~~ carrier having at least two sets of:

- (a) a primary male lock and corresponding primary lock ledge; and
- (b) a secondary male lock and two secondary locking ledges.

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14. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 1, for carrying a plurality of containers in at least one row.

15. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 6, for carrying a plurality of containers in at least one row.

16. (currently amended) A wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in two rows, ~~said the~~ carrier comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge, with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least two primary lock ledges, with each ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap, with each primary male lock being engaged with a primary locking ledge, with each primary male lock being at least substantially flat against ~~said the~~ inner flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least two secondary male locks, with each secondary male lock attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said the~~ cut line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap, with each secondary male

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lock extending through a secondary female opening with each shoulder of each secondary male lock engaging a secondary locking ledge, with each secondary male lock being at least substantially flat against ~~said the~~ inner flap of the carrier.

17. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in two rows of claim 16, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

18. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in two rows of claim 16, ~~in which~~ wherein each secondary female opening has a slit that extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

19. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with containers of two rows of claim 18, ~~in which~~ wherein the neck of each secondary male lock has two edges, with the distance between the edges of the neck being less than the distance between the slits, with the neck of the secondary male lock being designed to be located in the secondary female opening between the slits.

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier of claim 16, ~~in which~~ wherein the containers are either bottles or cans.

22. (currently amended) A wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in one row, ~~said the~~ carrier comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

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(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least two primary lock ledges, with each ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap, with each primary male lock being engaged with a primary locking ledge, with each primary male lock being at least substantially flat against the inner flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least two secondary male locks, with each secondary male lock attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said the~~ cut line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap, with each secondary male lock extending through a secondary female opening with each shoulder of each secondary male lock engaging a secondary locking ledge, with each secondary male lock being at least substantially flat against ~~said the~~ inner flap of the carrier.

23. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in one row of claim 22, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

24. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with a plurality of containers in one row of claim 22, ~~in which~~ wherein a slit extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

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25-27. (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A wrap-around carrier loaded with at least four bottles containers in two rows, ~~said-the~~ carrier comprising:

(a) a top panel, opposite side panels and a bottom panel ~~consisting of~~ comprising an inner flap with a terminal edge and an outer flap with a terminal edge, with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said-the~~ inner flap having at least two primary locking ledges, with each ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap with each primary lock being engaged with a primary locking ledge, with each primary male lock being at least substantially flat against the inner flap; and

(c) ~~said-the~~ outer flap having at least two secondary male locks with each secondary male lock attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said-the~~ flap, and ~~said-the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said-the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said-the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said~~ the secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said-the~~ cut line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said-the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap, with each secondary male lock extending through a secondary female opening with each shoulder of each secondary male lock engaging a secondary locking ledge, with each secondary male lock being at least substantially flat against ~~said-the~~ inner flap of the carrier.

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29. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with at least four ~~bottles~~ containers in two rows of claim 28, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

30. (currently amended) The wrap-around carrier loaded with at least four bottles in two rows of claim 28, ~~in which~~ wherein a slit extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

31. (currently amended) An interlocking panel in an article carrier, ~~said the~~ interlocking panel being connected to opposite side panels of the carrier, ~~said the~~ interlocking panel comprising:

(a) inner and outer flaps which are connected to the side panels of the carrier, ~~said the~~ inner and outer flaps each having a terminal edge, with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least one primary lock ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least one secondary male lock with two shoulders attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said the~~ cut line, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said the~~ secondary cut line

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extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

32. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 31 ~~28~~, ~~in which~~ wherein ~~the~~ extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

33. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 31, ~~in which~~ wherein a slit extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

34. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 31, ~~in which~~ wherein the carrier has been loaded with articles and each primary male lock is engaged with a lock ledge formed by a primary female opening, and the shoulder of each secondary male lock is engaged with a secondary locking ledge, thereby securing the inner and outer flaps together as an interlocking panel.

35. (currently amended) An interlocking panel in an article carrier, ~~said the~~ interlocking panel being connected to opposite side panels of the carrier, ~~said the~~ interlocking panel comprising:

(a) inner and outer flaps which are connected to the side panels of the carrier, ~~said the~~ inner and outer flaps each having a terminal edge, with a portion of the outer flap overlapping a portion of the inner flap;

(b) ~~said the~~ inner flap having at least one primary lock ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap; and

(c) ~~said the~~ outer flap having at least one secondary male lock with two shoulders attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said the~~ flap, and ~~said the~~ inner flap having a secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each

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secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said-the~~ fold line being arcuate shaped and having a center and two ends with the center being closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the ends of the fold line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line being V shaped with the apex of the V being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of the cut line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said-the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

36. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 35, ~~in which said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

37. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 35, ~~in which~~ wherein a slit extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

38. (currently amended) An interlocking panel in an article carrier, ~~said-the~~ interlocking panel being connected to opposite side panels of the carrier, ~~said-the~~ interlocking panel comprising:

(a) inner and outer flaps which are connected to the side panels of the carrier, ~~said-the~~ inner and outer flaps each having a terminal edge;

(b) ~~said-the~~ inner flap having at least two primary lock ledges, with each ledge formed by a primary female opening in the inner flap, the outer flap having a primary male lock for each lock ledge which is formed by a slit cut in the outer flap, with each primary male lock being engaged with a primary lock ledge, with each primary male lock being at least substantially flat against the inner flap; and

(c) ~~said-the~~ outer flap having at least two secondary male locks, with each secondary male lock attached by a neck to the terminal edge of ~~said-the~~ flap, and ~~said-the~~ inner flap having a

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secondary female opening for each secondary male lock, ~~said-the~~ secondary female opening being further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the primary female opening, with each secondary female opening formed by a secondary cut line and fold line which is closer to the terminal edge of the inner flap than the cut line, ~~said-the~~ fold line having a center and two ends with the secondary cut line at least nearly meeting the fold line at each end of the fold line, ~~said~~ ~~the~~ secondary cut line having a center that is significantly further from the terminal edge of the inner flap than the rest of ~~said-the~~ cut line, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line and fold line forming a female flap in the secondary female opening with the fold line projecting towards the terminal edge of the inner flap from the ends of the fold line to the center, ~~said-the~~ secondary cut line extending beyond each end of the fold line to form a secondary locking ledge along the side of ~~said-the~~ extension cut remote from the terminal edge of the inner flap, with each secondary male lock extending through a secondary female opening with each shoulder of each secondary male lock engaging a secondary locking ledge, with each secondary male lock being at least substantially flat against ~~said-the~~ inner flap of the carrier.

39. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 38, ~~in-which-said~~ wherein the extension cut turns and projects towards the terminal edge of the inner flap at a point remote from each end of the fold line.

40. (currently amended) The interlocking panel of claim 38, ~~in-which~~ wherein a slit extends for a short distance from the secondary cut line near each end of the fold line in a direction away from the terminal edge of the inner flap.

Add new claim 41:

41. (new) The wrap-around carrier of claim 28, wherein the containers are either bottles or cans.